

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 02068 070747Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 2068

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OCLR, SO, US
SUBJ: VREELAND NO SUBSTITUTE FOR SURVEY TEAM

REF: STATE 219910

1. SUMMARY: THE USS VREELAND'S VISIT TO MOGADISCIO ACHIEVED THE LIMITED OBJECTIVES SET OUT FOR IT, BUT PRESIDENT SIAD HARDLY VIEWS IT AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR A VISIT BY A DOD SURVEY TEAM. END SUMMARY.

2. THE VISIT BY THE USS VREELAND TO MOGADISCIO AUGUST 26-28 ACHIEVED THE POLITICAL GOAL OF SYMBOLIZING U.S. WILLINGNESS TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA. IT WAS A PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUCCESS IN THAT THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE VREELAND BEHAVED LIKE GENTLEMEN AND SPENT MONEY LIKE SAILORS -- CHARACTERISTICS MUCH APPRECIATED BY ALL SOMALIS WITH WHOM THEY CAME IN CONTACT. VREELAND EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO LOSE THE BASKETBALL GAME AGAINST THE SOMALI ARMED FORCES TEAM BY THE LOPSIDED SCORE 61-32.

3. HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR ADDLOU'S REPORT TO PRESIDENT SIAD ON THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO HIS AIDE MEMOIRE DILUTED WHATEVER SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE THE VREELAND VISIT MIGHT HAVE HAD.

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4. REPORTING ON HIS MEETING WITH SIAD, ADDOU MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- SIAD WAS APOPLETIC. (ACCORDING TO ADDOU, SIAD SAID: "WHAT MORE DO THE AMERICANS WANT? EVERY TIME I OFFER A CONCESSION THEY IMPOSE NEW CONDITIONS.")

-- SIAD INSTRUCTED ADDOU TO REMAIN IN MOGADISCIO UNTIL HE RETURNS FROM EUROPE.

-- FOR HIS PART, ADDOU URGES THE DEPARTMENT TO REASSESS THE POSSIBILITY FOR THE DISPATCH OF A SURVEY TEAM.

-- ADDOU URGES THE DEPARTMENT NOT TO CLOSE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING BETWEEN SIAD AND PRESIDENT CARTER, TO AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO A MEETING AT A DATE TO BE DETERMINED IN THE FUTURE.

5. THE DEPARTMENT WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS ADDOU'S CHARACTERIZATION OF HOW HIS MEETING WITH SIAD WENT. SIAD WAS IN BED WITH THE FLU WHEN ADDOU RETURNED HERE SEPTEMBER 3 AND RECEIVED NO ONE BUT ADDOU BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THE NEXT DAY FOR EUROPE. HE IS NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN TO MOGADISCIO BEFORE SEPTEMBER 16. THIS GIVES HIM CONSIDERABLE TIME TO REFLECT ON WHAT HIS NEXT MOVES WILL BE.

6. MEANWHILE, I WILL DOUBTLESS BE SEEING ADDOU AGAIN AND WILL REPORT ANY CHANGES OF TONE OR SUBSTANCE THAT I PERCEIVE.
LOUGHRAN

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NNN

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